



# Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community News

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1351 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Mendota, MN 55150

55150 MMDC is a Tribal 501C3 Organization

## Message from Sharon:

**Hello everyone!**

I've been working many hours on the gathering.

I was recently in the hospital with double pneumonia. I was also in the heart ward for 4 days. I received a covid-19 test and it came back negative. Then, a month later I got a nasty spider bite that became terribly infected.

Even with these difficulties, I manage to keep going and going, like the energizer bunny. One of the reasons I am able to keep strong is because I have so much love for my people

and community. I have been honored to be able to volunteer countless hours of my time and I will keep doing so for as long as I am able. Stay safe and stay healthy it has been many months since this covid nightmare began.

Joe and I have been sending out an agenda once a month, with what has happen each month, and our finances.

Seems strange not having meetings. The council is working at home on the bylaws, grants and federal recognition. John and Jason do go to the office.

Winter: 2020



We applied for the pow wow grant from MRAC and we received it in June 2020.

We did not have our Pow Wow because of the pandemic so we used some of the grant money for the Prayers, Drums and Dance Oyate Gathering at St Peters Church. It was a small gathering, mostly for praying, just getting together. We celebrated our 25th anniversary and we honored Lisa Bellerger, and her daughter Binaishee who sadly passed away Sept 17 after giving birth to a baby boy on Sept 11.

Each year we send letters to government agencies. These are letters to communicate, letters of thanks, requests, grant applications, etc.

We sent a letter to Minnesota Congresswoman Angie Craig and we were very pleased that her office reached out to us right away. We were scheduled to have a meeting to meet with her, however she was called away on business and had to cancel. We did however speak with Nick Coe District Director and Will Mitchell the Legislative Director, about our community, our needs and our future. We hope to be meeting with Amy soon.

Thank you to our Minnesota 2nd District congressional leaders, including Angie Craig, Matt Klein, Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith and Rick Hanson for their efforts to acquire much needed grant money for Minnesota nonprofits, like ours.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped with this gathering. You all made it very successful. Thank you to Arvol Looking Horse and Paula, Clyde Bellecourt, Emmett Eastman, Jerry Dearly, and Gary Charwood who was our MC for the gathering.

I was very happy with the amount of people we had at this

gathering. We will celebrate again when we can, whenever that will be.

Some of our members will get a call from a student asking you to tell your story about what you have heard or know about your family living in Mendota. These students will be receiving a grade for this. This is very important for our federal recognition to get ready to send in. We need to show we were close knit families from 1900 to 1950. We have asked for these stories for a long time, Now we need them.

My niece Victoria Scott has been recently diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. Please remember her in your prayers.

Thank you for sending in your surveys we have received about 60, we still need more of our members to turn them in.

My nephew Brad was in England recently and he participated in a 5K fundraiser for cancer research called "Race For Life". He selected me as his inspiration and I was so touched.

Your tribal council would like to say Pidamaya to all of our members and honorary members what an honor to have you in our community..



**-Sharon Lennartson Chairwoman**

It's very important that everyone complete and return their survey form and consent form! They can be downloaded and printed here: [mendotadakota.com/mn/downloads](http://mendotadakota.com/mn/downloads)

- We need research done, you volunteer your time at home.
- (Newspapers on MN Frontier 1849-1860) we will pay for the documents, so there is no cost for you. Just send us the information.
- Another site is (Newspaper.com) also needs to be looked at for community family / members,
- Ancestry.com,
- MNHS, MNDS,
- MN Genealogical Society,
- Old church records, libraries and anywhere else you can find information.
- Also look up any families anything that pertains to Mendota.
- Mdewakanton.org and Dakota kinship on face book.
- Santee Sioux Genealogy on Facebook.
- Anything any subject about Mendota.
- [accessgenealogy.com/native/mdewakantonsioux-tribe.htm](http://accessgenealogy.com/native/mdewakantonsioux-tribe.htm)
- French Fur Traders
- Indian Scouts in 1860 – 1864
- Old phone directories for Mendota.
- Please look at your (great) grandparents birth certificates to see if they were born in Mendota in the DuPuis House our ancestral home of Hypolite DuPuis & Angelique Renville. Send us a copy of that birth certificates or baptismal. I know not all of you are related to Hypolite and Angelique. If you are we still need any stories about them. Other members we need your ancestor's stories too.
- When you find something, document where you found it, if it is a book, the page, the date you found it, the date it was written. If it is on microfiche what box, what document, etc.
- We are looking for all family stories.

## IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

Due to the shutdowns, there will be no future meetings until further notice. Let us know if you are interested in being included in any future Zoom meetings.



## STAY CONNECTED:

Make sure to like us at [www.facebook.com/MendotaDakota](http://www.facebook.com/MendotaDakota) to be the first to hear about upcoming events and news! Your opinion matters, please feel free to leave us a [www.facebook.com/MendotaDakota/reviews](http://www.facebook.com/MendotaDakota/reviews)

## REMEMBER YOUR 2020 CONTRIBUTIONS:

All members of the tribe, even honorary members, are required to pay contributions.

We wish to express our gratitude to all the tribal and honorary members who pay their contributions on time or who use the automatic payment system ACH payments on our website. One for Lineal one for honorary members.

Would you like to pay your contributions automatically? [www.mendotadakota.com/ach](http://www.mendotadakota.com/ach)

These contributions are important for keeping our tribal office running. They pay for things like cultural events, education, powwows, office supplies, programs, gas, inips, community car, etc.

Please get caught up on your dues. For those of you who have not paid for a while please get caught up. You don't want to be removed, when we are so close to sending in our narrative for Federal Recognition. If you have not paid in two years you could be removed, we really don't want to do that.

Need to get caught up with back payments or make a one time payment? [www.mendotadakota.com/payment](http://www.mendotadakota.com/payment)

## ARE YOU GOOD AT RESEARCH?

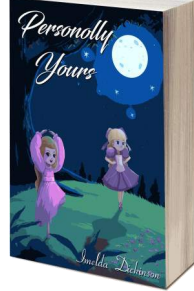
We are still looking for research volunteers. If you'd like to help, please contact us Greg Strandmark. [mendotadakota.com/mn/contact](http://mendotadakota.com/mn/contact)

Or anyone on the council. We are looking for any photographs or new information about Angelique Renville, wife of Hypolite Dupuis.

We'd like to find any evidence of our Mdewakanton ancestors who were born in or lived in the DuPuis House, in Mendota, MN. We already have the information about Becky Wiggins's Grandparent.

**"To preserve, protect, and promote the Dakota culture for future generations."**

- **IMPORTANT:** The owner is selling the building that we are in right now. Once it sells we will have 2 months notice to move. We do not know where we can go after this and we need to find ways of making the extra money it will take to move somewhere. Currently our rent is \$500 including utilities. Does anyone know of a business office we can rent in or near Mendota?
- Our current office leaks and we are afraid that mold is developing again.
- Due to covid, no Christmas Party.
- We will be having a toy drive. Please donate via this link: [www.mendotadakota.com/donate](http://www.mendotadakota.com/donate) or contact the office via email if you have toys or gift cards you can drop off. If you need toys, please send a message to Sharon with the gender and age of the children. The deadline for dropping off or requesting toys is 6pm Dec 15th.
- We now have our own anthropologist her name is Emily Rutherford. Sharon met her in Faribault Historical Society, trying to fine information on Jean Baptiste Octave LeClaire. Josine and Earl went with me to Faribault back in August. We were invited by Jeff Jarvis.
- New Honorary members: Paul Mohrbacher, Gary Smith, Lee Daniels, Conor Donnan and Nate Crookshank.
- Brian Gilbert our attorney is back to help on federal recognition pro bono.
- Dick LeClaire daughter Denise has a friend her name Anita, her last name is private for now, she will be working on federal recognition with the council soon.
- We received a \$500.00 donation for the Gathering, from Bald Eagle Erectors, I sent them a donation request back in late August for the Gathering.
- Final paperwork to MRAC due in 2 weeks, Joe takes care of that.
- Secretary of State due in November Joe will send to council.
- Perry Altendorfer was removed as Historian in Oct 2019.
- Sharon Called Greg Strandmark in October to see if he would be our acting historian again until elections in May of 2021 and he accepted.
- Joe Lennartson is our acting Treasurer until elections in May 2021. Joe has done quick books since 2011.
- We are working on a new donation requests with Facebook, and GoFundMe.
- Joe Lennartson applied for a grant and succeeded in acquiring \$2,000 to help fund online classes to teach our history, cultural classes, storytelling and more. We hope these online classes will be setup and available by Jan 2021
- Sister Jan Dawson died two weeks ago. She was an amazing woman so kind and gentle. Jan was an activist. We met her at Coldwater, have been friends ever since. Jan was not afraid to be arrested for something she believed in. Jan was involved in the Pilot Knob Preservation and many other organizations and community. Jan you will be dearly missed, go finish your work in heaven.
- John LeClaire was able to get us a donation of \$1000 from the Mendota City Council to assist our community during the pandemic.
- What do you think, should we have a voting membership meeting on zoom in Jan 2021? We will most likely have to do a number of Zoom meetings, email us if you'd like to be informed of our Zoom times so you can be included.
- I will be doing a zoom meeting with the Daughters of the Revolution in November. They want to know why the Mendota Mdota Oyate never left Mendota.
- Volunteer students have started calling members to collect important information, so please answer your phones. We are hearing the students are having some problem getting a hold of people.
- Thank you to John and Jason for helping St Thomas students to call and talk to people about our history and community.
- We should have the bylaws and constitution done soon and approved by the council. For our members to see and vote on our decision. If you do not vote, then the bylaws and constitution will be final.
- The creator is bringing us many new people to our community.
- Thank you to all the council, Greg, John, Jason, Joe for their countless volunteer hours.
- Thank you to Brad Saint George for our website. He has been volunteering his time since at least 2010. Before that, we were paying \$350.00 a month for our website, now the total cost is less than \$200 per year for hosting, domain name, etc. and Brad does any work we need for free. He has graciously offered a discount to all members who need his services. His website is [www.CustomGenius.com](http://www.CustomGenius.com)
- Our elections will be coming up again in May of 2021. More details to come as we get closer.
- Thank you to Dr. Mike Klein he is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Justice and Peace Studies at the University of St. Thomas. When we are done with our Federal Recognition process, Mike said he may write a book about us. Mike has written many books after he has finished his project.
- Welcome to Professor Amy Finnegan and her students! They will be assisting us with some very important things and we are very grateful to her.
- We are looking for more newsletters from our past.
- I know federal recognition seems to be taking a long time. We are working on it constantly. We are committed to it and hoping to see some positive results soon.



At 90 years old, Imelda Dickinson has just completed her second book, "Personolly Yours Too" filled with stories and poetry told through the eyes of dolls which she has been giving to people, around the world, for over 40 years. Imelda is Brad Saint George's grandmother and a relative of Emily Dickinson. **She is currently looking for a publicist or literary agent.** To contact her, read her poetry or purchase her first book "Personolly Yours" please visit her website at [www.ImeldaDickinson.com](http://www.ImeldaDickinson.com)

## ADVERTISE IN OUR NEWSLETTER & ON WEB:

Just think, if your advertisement was here, other people would be reading it! All submissions will be reviewed before accepting. We reserve the right to choose not to accept your advertisement for inclusion. We are also accepting advertisements for our facebook page and website. We can even create graphics for you and write up the information for a low price!

**All proceeds help our tribe. We are a 501C3 organization.**

Contact us for pricing and possible inclusion in the next newsletter. [newsletter@mendotadakota.com](mailto:newsletter@mendotadakota.com)



## ABOUT US AND OUR GOALS

The Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal community is a non-profit 501C3 organization dedicated to preserving the Dakota heritage.

**In 2002, the MMDC membership participated in a comprehensive strategic planning session that resulted in the development of seven (7) long range goals striving to:**

We currently have seven (7) goals:

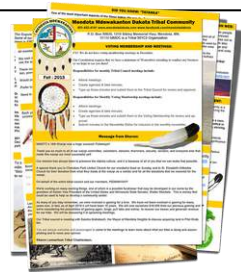
- Obtain federal recognition.
- Maintain a tribal office in Mendota, MN.
- Acquire a land base.
- Develop self-sufficiency through in-house business.
- Promote and support the preservation of the Dakota culture, including protecting sites of cultural significance to the Dakota people.
- Teach community members and others the Dakota language.
- Promote an understanding between the Mendota Community and other Native Communities, and the public.

Would you like to see a newsletter more often?

You can help by submitting stories, history, pictures, news, humor, etc.

You can view our current and many of our archived newsletters at

[www.mendotadakota.com/newsletter](http://www.mendotadakota.com/newsletter)



Please let us know of any errors you may see in the newsletter. Send all updates and corrections to us and if necessary we will revise the current newsletter or correct the error in the next edition.

### Do you have an idea for a story?

Would you like to find or write articles for the MMDC website, facebook page or newsletter?

Are you an artist/cartoonist, storyteller, activist or photographer?

Do you have something you would like to

contribute for possible inclusion to our

newsletters? A funny anecdote or joke? Stories, news or history, art, a link to your music, videos or photo gallery?

Have you seen something interesting on the web you think should be included?

Please send us an email. [newsletter@mendotadakota.com](mailto:newsletter@mendotadakota.com)



- Hiring HVAC technicians. **\$15,000 sign on bonus**, benefits and moving assistance! Resource Services: [www.rsmech.us/employment](http://www.rsmech.us/employment)
- Interested in **Alternative fuel sources**, cutting edge energy inventions and conservation? Please visit: [www.Unspillable.com](http://www.Unspillable.com)
- "To survive anything, be prepared for everything" Humor, tips & tricks, DIY, FYI all about survival: [www.ApocalypseDiscussion.com](http://www.ApocalypseDiscussion.com)
- We may be able to **donate our time assisting MMDTC members** in starting a new business, including Covid funding. [www.ahzzma.com](http://www.ahzzma.com)
- Be your own boss with a **pandemic proof business**. We build profitable self storage facilities anywhere! [www.StoragePartners.us](http://www.StoragePartners.us)
- Vietnam Vet and Minnesota **artist creates unique art** with wood, stone, canvas, glass and more. [www.hiddenintherocksart.com](http://www.hiddenintherocksart.com)
- **Social media manager**, web & graphic designer, video editing, virtual assistance and more! [www.CustomGenius.com](http://www.CustomGenius.com)

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